

Meeting Minutes: Speech Language Pathology and Audiology Advisory Council

Date: 7/24/2018
Minutes prepared by: Morgan Foster
Location: PERA, 60 Empire Drive, Saint Paul, MN 55103

Attendance

- **MDH Staff Members:** Catherine Lloyd, Barbara Damchik-Dykes, Kia Moua, Grace Rauchwarter, Kristin Johnson, Morgan Foster
- **Council Members:** Leigh Ann Ahmad, Josephine Helmbrecht, George Pfaff, Jenne Tunnell, Letty Faller, Taiha Wagner, Nancy Thul
- **Call in:** Sarah Monahan, Heidi Hueffmeier
- **Absent Members:** Nyagatare Valens, Analise Ludwig

Agenda/Notes

- **Convene and Introductions**
- **Announcements**
 - **Vacancies** – Geoffrey Service has resigned. Vacancy is open for one physician licensed under [chapter 147](#) and certified by the American Board of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery.
- **Approval of Minutes** - April 24th, 2018 meeting minutes approved as written
- **Additions/Adoptions of Agenda** - Approved as written
- **Staff Updates:**
 - **Credentialing Report** - Moua presented SLP/AUD credentialing statistics as of July 2, 2018*
 - **HID Exam Report** - Rauchwarter presented Hearing Instrument Dispenser Practical Exam results from May 7, 2018*
 - **Investigation and Enforcement Reports** - Johnson presented SLP/AUD Investigation and Enforcement reports through 4th quarter of fiscal year 2018.* There were no new allegations.
 - **Budget Report** - Lloyd presented the budget report for fiscal year through 4th quarter.*
- **Old Business**
 - **Speech Language Pathology Assistant Licensure Bill** – Nancy Thul

SLPA MEETING MINUTES

- **Update on National Certification of SLPA through ASHA** - On the national front, the American Speech Hearing Association (ASHA) will be nationally certifying SLPA's within the next 3 years. ASHA is currently working on a national exam that should be offered to SLPA's with the next 3 years.
- **Licensure Update for the State of MN** - The SLPA licensure bill moved forward on the House side ([HF 470](#)) during the legislative session but was not heard on the Senate side ([SF 197](#)). There was no known opposition. Advocates asked it to be put in the Omnibus bill but that was not possible. Therefore, advocates will be moving forward again next year, during the legislative session to again work on getting this bill passed.
- **Health Equity Initiatives** – Lloyd revisited the topic of [Health Equity](#) and the goals of the council pursuant to MDH's strategic plan for Fiscal Year 2019. During previous meetings, the council discussed gaps in coverage for services and how to identify communities that do not have support for SLP and AUD services. Council members identified a possible gap in Somalian populations for educational materials in Somali. Members established a goal of researching and identifying resources for Somali communities regarding speech, language and hearing resources. A second possible goal is to identify the use of telemedicine for reaching rural populations that may need services. Department staff will reach out to agency staff who may have more information.
- **New Business**
 - **Licensure After Lapse** – Moua presented the issue of practitioners applying for renewal after a significant lapse in licensure. One concern is how to manage renewals when the practitioner's exam scores and records no longer exist because of the records retention policy. The council opined that it was not concerned about the competence of a practitioner with a current license in another jurisdiction and that a retake of the HID exam seemed unnecessary. Furthermore, a discussion about requiring practitioners to take a refresher course offer at a university if the individual has not been practicing in another jurisdiction for so many years; however, this will need a statutory change.
 - **HID Exam** – MDH is looking into ways to improve or update the exam. Damchik-Dykes presented a summary of her observations surrounding the exam and reported on HOP staff efforts to review all portions of the exam, including written materials for plain language, instructions and training material provided to individuals proctoring the exam, instructions for scoring the exam, and looking into how MDH may consider other options to administer audiometry and the written portion of the exam.
 - **Internal Review** – Johnson presented findings of preliminary research. Some other states require passing the written exam before moving forward.
 - **Simulators vs. live subjects** – MDH previously used to use live subjects, but switched to simulators to reduce liability and safety issues. Proctors prefer live

SLPA MEETING MINUTES

subjects. HOP staff will include instructions to examinees and proctors for use of live subjects or the simulator for future examinations.

- **Laptops** – Council members offered information on how laptops are currently used in clinical and educational settings to conduct audiometric testing.
 - **Exam Committee** – HOP Staff will begin the process of reviewing all exam related material and will seek input from an exam committee as needed.
 - **National Apprenticeship Standards for Hearing Aid Specialists** – MDH is aware the U.S. Department of Labor approved a revised apprenticeship program for hearing aid specialist. MDH will keep the Council posted of any updates regarding this program.
 - **Adjourn**
- * Detailed reports available upon request

Action Items

- Health Occupations Program will reach out to Managed Care Systems (MCS) if there is a policy on telemedicine.
- Health Equity Initiatives: Center for Health Equity

Next Meeting

Date: October 23, 2018

Time: 2:00 – 4:00 pm

Location: PERA, 60 Empire Drive, Saint Paul, MN 55103

Agenda items: (submit proposed agenda items to health.slpa@state.mn.us)

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